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**CATHY R.HODES**

 **CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF RICHMOND**  
31 EBONY RD  
EBONY, VA 23845  
PHONE: (434) 636-6277  
CELL: (434) 774-9376  
E-mail: ladamos@richmonddiocese.org

**Linda Adamos**  
FSA, St. Peter the Apostle Cemetery, OCFS

*In Loving Memory of our departed families and friends*

**Bettie & Bobby Berndt**  
**The Fitzgerald Family**

*Helpful Hands and Hearts*

If you need transportation to a doctor or pharmacy, call 252-586-3000 for a free ride.

**BRICK MEMORIALS**  
Purchase a brick for St. Peter the Apostle Grotto for \$100. Call the office for details.

Remember donations to our Poor Box, canned food for our food closet, and donations for Hannah's Place.

**Save your aluminum, rinsed cans and place them in the receptacle near the garage.**

## December Birthdays

- 3 **Bob Oravits**
- Bettie Pasco**
- 6 **Jackie Centamore**
- 7 **Maureen Seelinger**
- 10 **Judy Pelletier**
- 11 **Ginnie Driggers**
- 16 **Marc Seelinger**
- 17 **Eileen Griffin**
- Joseph Mullen**
- 19 **Mari Driggers**
- 21 **Michael Coughlin**
- David Free**
- 22 **Wilson Youngblood**
- 29 **Peter Legler**
- 30 **John Tigmo**

## Happy Anniversary

- Jean & Edward Maynes**  
December 12, 1964
- Janet & Mark Fracassa**  
December 17, 1988
- Jeanne & Paul Kurilla**  
December 27, 1969

*Create a Legacy of Giving. Please remember St. Peter the Apostle Catholic Church in your Estate Plans.*



## Our Lady of the Lake

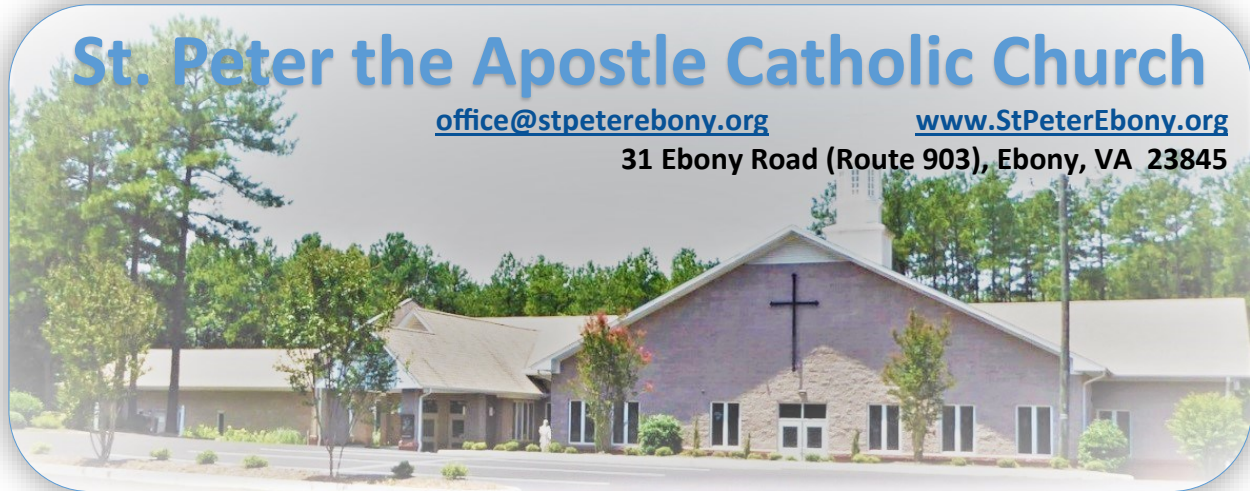


### Council 9309

#### Officers for 2023-2024

- Chaplain:** Fr. Jong R. Bayta
  - Grand Knight:** Mark Fracassa
  - Deputy Grand Knight:** John Husson
  - Chancellor:** Dave Thomas
  - Recorder:** Bob Hathaway
  - Treasurer:** Jay Warfel, PGK\*
  - Financial Secretary:** Tom O'Neill, PGK\*
  - Advocate:** Bob Oravits
  - Warden:** Paul Kurilla
  - Guards:**
    - Inside: Kip Boisot, PGK\*
    - Outside: Richard Rumprik
  - BOARD OF TRUSTEES:**
    - Trustee One Year:** Chuck Youse
    - Trustee Two Years:** George McCall
    - Trustee Three Years:** Bobby Berndt, \*PGK
- \*PGK-Past Grand Knight

*Catholic men 18 years or older are eligible to join the Knights of Columbus. Please contact Mark Fracassa (804) 305-6175 or Tom O'Neill (252)519-3050.*



# St. Peter the Apostle Catholic Church

[office@stpeterebony.org](mailto:office@stpeterebony.org)

[www.StPeterEbony.org](http://www.StPeterEbony.org)

31 Ebony Road (Route 903), Ebony, VA 23845

We welcome all visitors & new parishioners to our parish family. Frequent part-time attendees are encouraged to register. Registration forms are located in the narthex.

#### Mission Statement:

We are people of God under the patronage of Saint Peter the Apostle and are called to be active followers of Jesus Christ. As members of the Body of Christ on earth, we gather for worship around the word of God and celebration of the Eucharist. We commit ourselves to each other in Faith, in Hope, and in Love. We, as an adult family of believers, are uniquely positioned in this time of our life with the time, talent and energy to bring the message of Jesus to our Community with the help of the Holy Spirit through testimony, example, hospitality and service.

**Pastor:** Fr. Jong R. Bayta  
[jbayta@richmonddiocese.org](mailto:jbayta@richmonddiocese.org)  
**Rectory:** 434-636-7782  
**Secretary/Bookkeeper:**  
Elizabeth Martin  
434-636-6277

**Pastoral Council:**  
Teri Oswald: 856-889-4760  
**Finance Council:**  
Jerry Beil: 252-586-0635  
**Building & Grounds:**  
Jim Tomazic: 434-636-2993  
**Family Service Advisor:**  
Linda Adamos: 434-774-9376

## Liturgical Schedule

Weekday Masses:  
**Tuesday-Friday: 9:00 am**

Weekend Masses:  
**Saturday—5:30 pm**  
**Sunday—8:00 am**

Holy Hour w/ Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Benediction:  
**First Thursday of the month after Mass**

Reconciliation:  
**First Saturday of the month at 4:30 pm & by appointment**

Blessing of the Sick:  
**Last Tuesday of the month after Mass**

# Third Sunday of Advent—December 17, 2023

# PARISH NEWS



## Study of the Readings

### Background on the Gospel

#### Reading John 1:6-8,19-28

Today's Gospel combines a brief passage from the prologue to John's Gospel with a report about John the Baptist. As in Mark's Gospel, the Gospel of John contains no birth narrative. Instead, it begins with a theological reflection that has come to be called the "prologue", which places the story of Jesus in its cosmological framework. It speaks of Jesus' existence with God since the beginning of time. In John's Gospel, Jesus is presented as the fulfillment of the Old Testament and the culmination of the Word, the light that is coming into the world's darkness. Following this prologue, John reports on the

ministry of John the Baptist and the attention he received from the Jewish authorities. Messengers from the Jewish priests, the Levites and the Pharisees question John about his identity and the meaning of the baptisms that he is performing. John's Gospel uses these questions to establish the relationship between Jesus and John the Baptist. John the Baptist is not the Messiah, nor is he Elijah or the Prophet. In John's denials, we hear echoes of the kind of messianic expectations that were common in first-century Palestine. The only affirmative response that John the Baptist gives is when he quotes Isaiah. John announces that the savior they seek is already among them, but as yet unrecognized. His

response highlights for us an important Advent theme: Jesus has already come into the world as our savior. During Advent, we pray that we will be able to recognize Jesus' presence in our midst. Advent also reminds us that Jesus will come again to fulfill the promise of salvation. We pray that we will continue to be watchful as we anticipate that great day. The third Sunday of Advent is also called Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete, a Latin word which means "rejoice," is taken from the entrance antiphon for Sunday's Mass. This theme is echoed in today's second reading from the first Letter to the Thessalonians. It is a reminder that Advent is a season of joy because our salvation is already at hand.

On December 24th at 8:00 am, we will have the Mass for the Fourth Sunday of Advent. In the evening at 7:00 pm, we will have the Christmas Vigil Mass (Christmas Eve Mass).

Going to Mass at 8:00 am does not fulfill the obligation for attending Christmas Mass.



### Get Your Affairs in Order:

#### 4 things you family will thank you for Seminar

You are invited to attend a free, information-only Get Your Affairs in Order: 4 things you family will thank you for Seminar hosted by St. Peter the Apostle on Thursday, January 18, 2024 at 10:30 am in the parish social hall. This seminar will provide education and information to couples and individuals on Wills, Trusts, Catholic Advanced Medical Directives, Funeral Planning, and Estate and Legacy Planning. If you don't have a Will or you need to update yours, please make an effort to join us for this free seminar. Attendees will receive free copies of the Catholic Estate Planning Guide, Catholic Advanced Medical Directives, and the Catholic Funeral Planning Guide. Please RSVP to the Parish Office at 434-636-6277 or office@stpeterebony.org.

Maria Schutte, Rose Gongla, Ann Mogilnicki, Mary Purdy, Tom Eddy, Judy, Kyle, Josh & Emma Pelletier, Carol & Bernie Haefner, Tamara Burns, Lexie Burns, Katie & David Berlin, Megan Quigley, Suzanne & George McCall, Jean Sasscer, Bob & Pat Weise, Cheryl Beebe, Jerry Chini, Virgil Frizzell, Betty Morris, Matt Davis, Patricia Pruden, Mary Jo & Don Bankard, James Caruso, George Wall, Jeri Schottenbauer, Dale Pfindler, Bob Warwick, Zony Carino, Stephanie Hathaway, Peter Hamilton, Dale Litzinger, Robert Purdy, Jan & John Holt, Dave McKenzie, Jim Perozek

Please contact the office with updates. Contact Mary Ann Daly at 434-577-2660 to receive Holy Communion at home.

### Praying With Next Week's Readings

Reading I: 2 Samuel 7:1-5,

8b-12, 14a, 16

Responsorial Psalm: 89:2-5,

27-29

Reading II: Romans 16:25-27

Gospel: Luke 1:26-38

### Mass Intentions



Saturday, December 16th

**Charlie Sasscer**

Sunday, December 17th

**Judie Phillips**

### Upcoming Events:

**Dec. 19**-Knights Meeting

**Dec. 22-Jan 1**-Office Closed

**Dec. 24**-Fourth Sunday of Advent

**Dec. 24**-Christmas Vigil Mass 7pm

**Dec. 25**-Christmas Day Mass 8 am

**Dec. 26-29-NO DAILY MASS**

**Jan. 1-NO MASS**

## Last Week's Offertory

	Needed	Actual
Offertory:	\$3,423.08	\$5,149.66
Immaculate Conception:	\$245.00	<b>\$1,726.58</b>

## Online Giving

<https://giving.parishsoft.com/app/giving/stpeterebonyva>

OR

Text GIVE to 434-686-6277

### MASS ATTENDANCE:

**December 8th**  
**51**

**December 9th**  
**51**

**December 10th**  
**55**

## Next Week's Ministry Schedule

	USHERS	READERS	SERVER	BODY OF CHRIST	BLOOD OF CHRIST
Saturday	Jeanne Kurilla	Mark Fracassa	Dan Moyles	Pat Moyles	Jay Warfel
	Paul Kurilla	Mark Fracassa			Jackie Pfindler
Sunday	Marilyn Tuite	Linda Adamos	Tom O'Neill	Mary Ann Daly	Myrna Rodriguez
	Bob Tuite	Anne O'Neill			Jay Warfel